

SENIOR WARDEN SPEECH: WELCOME TO THE GUESTS

Master, Fellow Warden, My Lord Mayor, Mr. Sheriff, distinguished guests, Liverymen, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Master, on your behalf it is my great pleasure to welcome our guests here this evening to this, our Charter Commemorative Banquet, in celebration of our Royal Charter granted on the twenty fourth of April two thousand and twelve.

Firstly I will mention family members of our Master and his Mistress together with the personal guests of our members. Your presence and support help make this occasion so memorable for all present. It would be impossible to mention you all, but you are most welcome.

Master, I now welcome the Civic Party.

We are extremely pleased to greet the **Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor; Doctor Andrew Parmley**, accompanied by his wife **The Lady Mayoress; Wendy Parmley**.

It does seem something of an oddity to be welcoming the Lord Mayor into what is in effect his own 'front parlour'. However I am content to do so by the thought that it is our special event we are celebrating here this evening and we are delighted to have The Lord Mayor join us. We are most grateful to The Lord Mayor to allow us the opportunity of dining here in this grand Egyptian Hall.

We are particularly pleased that the Lord Mayor has found opportunity in his busy programme, representing and promoting the City of London, to be with us this evening.

He has been a Member of Common Council since 19-92 and was elected Alderman of Vintry Ward in two thousand and one. He has served on most of the City of London committees and is well involved in education and in music. He is a keen member of eight City Livery companies.

A recently launched initiative by the Lord Mayor is a campaign to address mental health issues in the workplace. A most laudable enterprise.

We wish the Lord Mayor continuing success for the remaining six months or so of his period of office.

Also here tonight, we are pleased to welcome **Sheriff William Russell** and Mrs Hilary Russell.

The office of Sheriff is the most ancient of City offices with its origin in the twelfth century.

William was educated at Eton College and Durham University. Following a distinguished 19 year career in financial institutions in the City he was elected as an Alderman for the Ward of Bread Street in 20-13. He has spent time working in Hong Kong and New York as well as London and he is today Chairman of an asset management firm and he acts as advisor within the City. He finds time to participate in a number of charitable organisations, not limited to the City.

He was elected as one of the two Sheriffs of the City of London in September 20-16. He serves on the Court of the Feltmakers Company and the Court of the Haberdashers Company and is an Honorary Liveryman of the Paviers Company, a company we know well.

You are most welcome.

The civic party is accompanied this evening by the Mansion House Duty Officer **Mr. Tim Rolph** whom I thank for ensuring the smooth running of this evening's event.

We also have as our guests, **The Honorable Mr Justice Coulson QC** accompanied by **Miss Rachael Harrison**, a barrister in the field of criminal law.

Sir Peter Coulson is having a distinguished career. He was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 19-82. He took silk in two thousand and one, becoming a Recorder in the same year. In two thousand and four he was appointed a Senior Circuit Judge in the Technology and Construction Court. He was then appointed as a High Court Judge in the Queen's Bench in two thousand and eight and he continues to specialise in Technology and Construction. Indeed he is the Judge in charge of the TCC.

Sir Peter has found time for authorship too. His mighty tome 'Coulson on Construction Adjudication' is required reading for practitioners and advocates of adjudication. It is available in the third edition at all good bookshops at an eye-watering two hundred and forty five pounds.

He has been rightly feted at his alma mater, Keele University, which granted him an honorary doctorate in two thousand and twelve.

His wider interests include music; he is a member of the Board of the world-renowned Academy of St. Martins in the Field; though his musical interest also extends into rock and pop. He is a trustee of the Orchard Vale Trust, which provides fulltime residential care for adults with learning and behavioural difficulties.

Sir Peter, it is a very great pleasure to have you with us this evening.

It now only remains for me to ask all members of our Company to rise and join me in drinking a toast to our guests:

OUR GUESTS

Eur Ing David M Wilson